MR. STONE! I THOUGHT YOU'D LEFT FOR THE NIGHT.
LIFE SIGNS STABILIZED. WE CAN COMMENCE TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT AT YOUR ORDER, SIR.
I DID. REPORT ON KASEY NASH, LIEUTENANT?
REMOVE HER ARMOR AND GET HER OUT OF HERE. I'LL GIVE YOU AN ADDRESS TO DELIVER HER TO.
WE'RE...WE'RE KICKING HER, SIR? MAY I ASK WHY?
BECAUSE, LIEUTENANT...
...SOMETIMES CIRCUMSTANCES FORCE US TO UNUSUAL SOLUTIONS.

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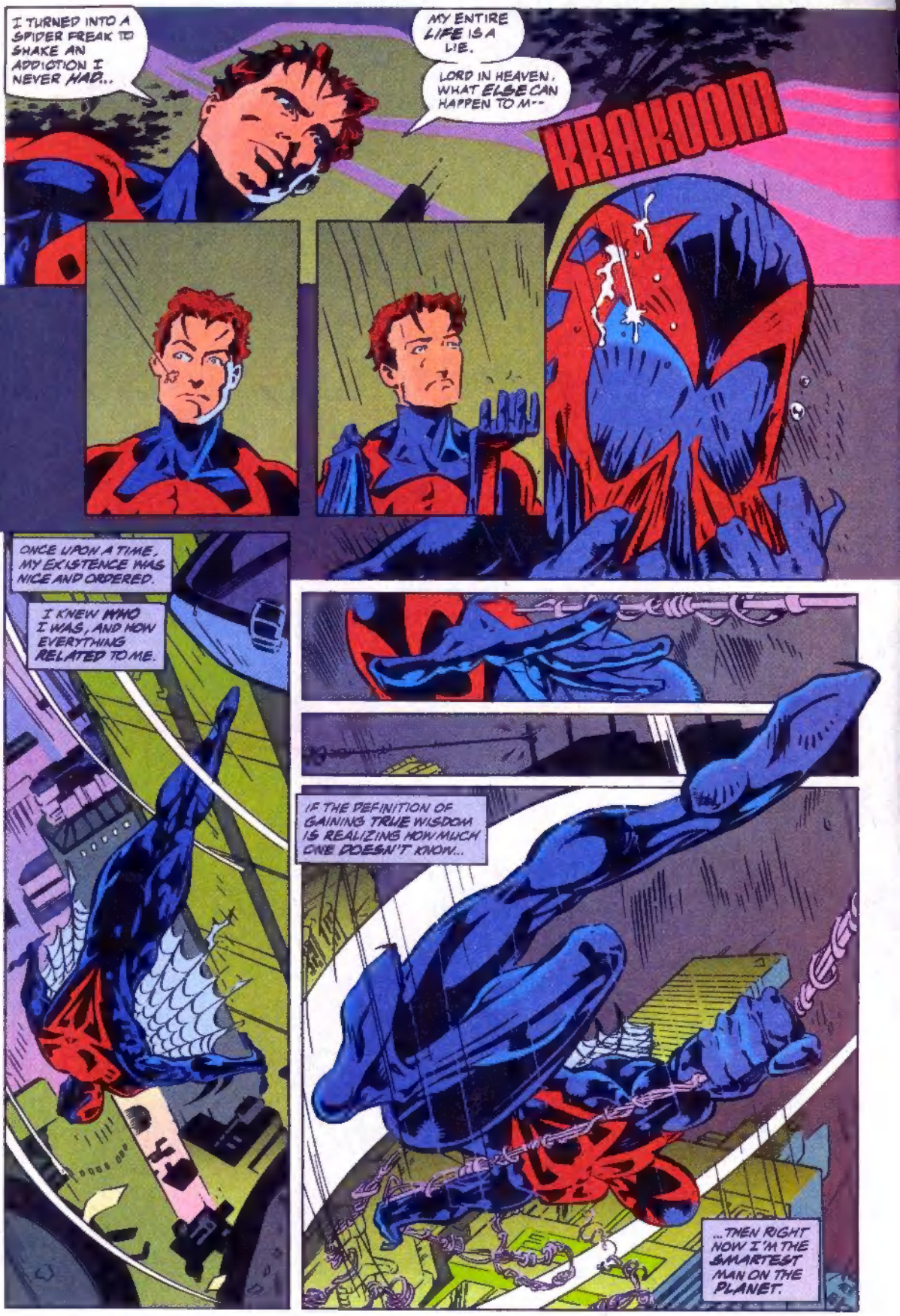
NGGHHH!!!
NO ESCAPE.
I RAN FROM STONE'S MANSION... RAN AND TRIED TO HIDE OUT IN MY DREAMS...
...BUT THERE'S NOWHERE TO HIDE. NO ESCAPE FROM WHAT I'VE LEARNED.
TYLER STONE IS MY FATHER...


I TURNED INTO A SPIDER FREAK TO SHAKE AN ADDICTION I NEVER HAD..
MY ENTIRE LIFE IS A LIE.
LORD IN HEAVEN, WHAT ELSE CAN HAPPEN TO M--
KRAKOOM
ONCE UPON A TIME, MY EXISTENCE WAS NICE AND ORDERED.
I KNEW WHO I WAS, AND HOW EVERYTHING RELATED TO ME.
IF THE DEFINITION OF GAINING TRUE WISDOM IS REALIZING HOW MUCH ONE DOESN'T KNOW...
...THEN RIGHT NOW I'M THE SMARTEST MAN ON THE PLANET.

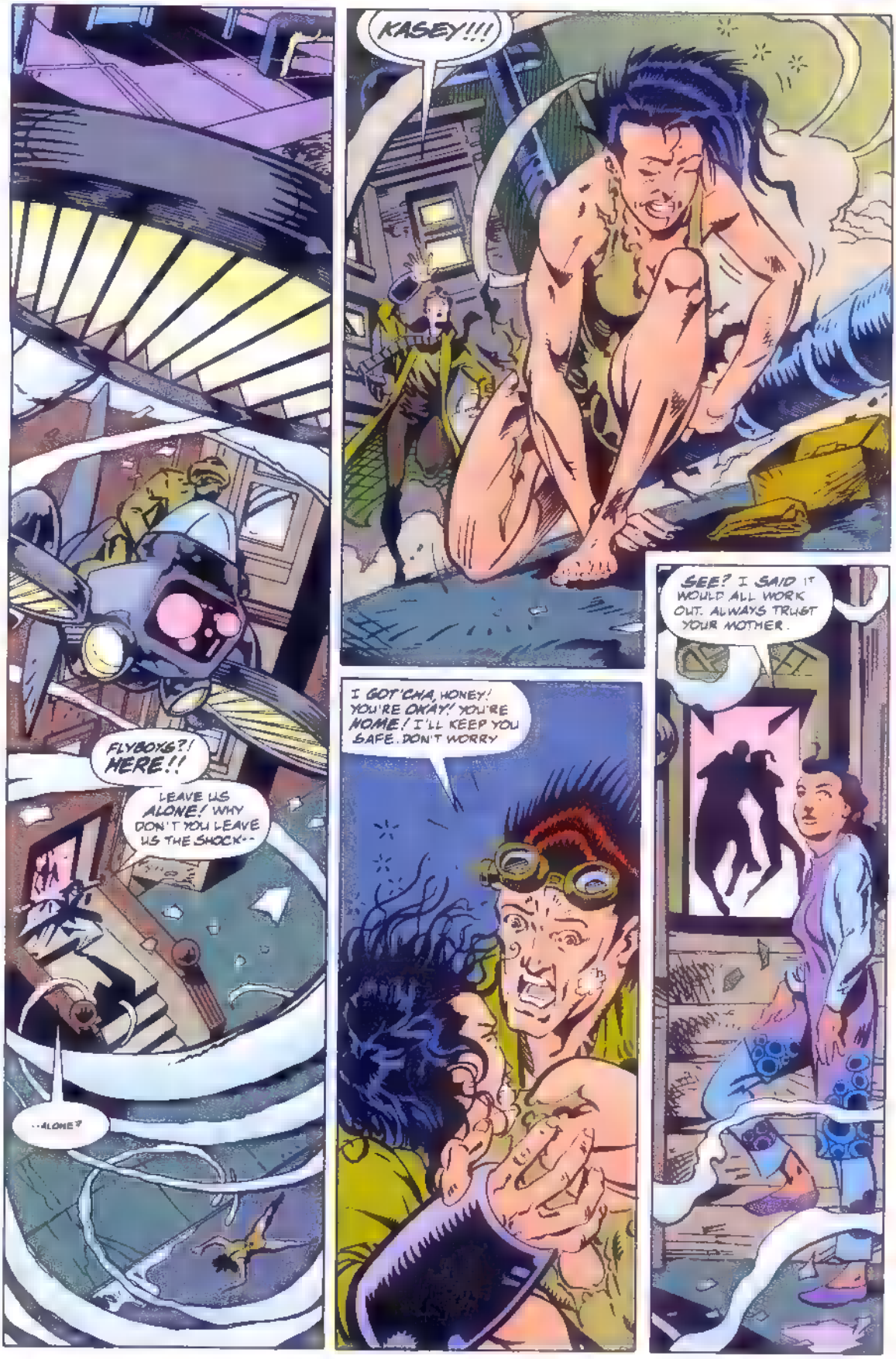
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
HOSTILE TAKEOVER
PETER DAVID WRITER
JOE ST. PIERRE GUEST ARTIST
JIMMY PALMIOTTI INKER
PETER PALMIOTTI BACKGROUND INKS
KEN LOPEZ LETTERER
JOE ROSAS COLORIST
JOEY CAVALIERI EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO CHIEF
I'M... I'M JUST NOT SURE IF I CAN LIVE WITH THAT STATUS.

NOW
RING
INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ALL AGREE, ANGIE...
ALCHEMAX HAS FOUND OUT ABOUT THE RESEARCH WE'RE CONDUCTING. WE PROJECT AN 85% CHANCE OF CORPORATE RAIDERS ATTEMPTING A HOSTILE TAKEOVER.
WE'VE FOUGHT THEM OFF BEFORE, AND WE WILL AGAIN, MISS PIVOT.
TRUE ENOUGH, BUT THE LAST ONE COST US HEAVILY. OUR REBUILD EFFORTS HAVE ONLY YIELDED...
I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN, OKAY!?
SORRY, MISS PIVOT. THAT WAS UNCALLED FOR.
HOW IS SUBJECT 394 COMING?

RATHER... AGGRESSIVE, AS IT TURNS OUT. PERHAPS OVERLY SO, AS YOU CAN HEAR.
WELL, NO ONE EVER SAID GENE MANIPULATION WAS AN EXACT SCIENCE.
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
YOU DON'T THINK WE'LL ACTUALLY HAVE TO LET HIM OUT, DO YOU?
IF PUGH COMES TO SHOVE AND WE NEED HIM, THEN YES.
SHOULD THAT OCCUR, I MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER TAKING SOME VACATION TIME.
SERGEANT ESTEVEZ? HOW ARE WE DOING TODAY?
GRRRREAT.

YOU SEEM TACITURN, MIGUEL. DO YOU WISH ME TO HOLD YOUR CALLS?
YEAH, LYLA, WHY DON'T YOU D--
LYLA? YOU'RE BACK?
NO, MIGUEL. THIS IS MY FRONT.
LYLA! YOU'RE--
OH. RIGHT. SORRY.
IT IS... PLEASING TO SEE YOU AS WELL, MIGUEL.
HOW MUCH DO YOU REMEMBER?
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED?
EVERYTHING. I AM STILL TRYING TO ASSIMILATE IT.
I BELIEVE, THOUGH, ACCORDING TO ETIQUETTE, THAT I SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR TRYING TO KILL YOU.

S'OKAY.
YOUR FACE HAS EXCESSIVE MOISTURE, INDICATIVE OF TEARS. HAS SOMETHING CAUSED YOU DISTRESS?
OHHH. YEAH. I FOUND OUT TYLER STONE IS MY FATHER.
HOW NICE. SHALL I ADD HIM TO YOUR CHRISTMAS CARD LIST?
WOW, I MISSED YOU.
LYLA, CAN I PLACE A CALL THAT YOU CAN SCRAMBLE SO THOROUGHLY, IT'S UNTRACEABLE?
OF COURSE, MIGUEL. I HAVE PARANOIA PERFECT 6.0 AS PART OF MY BASIC PROGRAMMING.
"GOOD. I WANT A DIRECT LINE FEED TO STARK-FUJIKAWA. TELL THEM SPIDER-MAN WANTS TO TALK TO THEIR CEO... NOW."
I...I LET HER DOWN, MA.
I JUST STOOD THERE AND LET THEM TAKE HER...
IT'S GOING TO WORK OUT.
MA, HOW CAN IT WORK OUT? IT'S...
HUH?


KASEY!!!
FLYBOYS?! HERE!!
LEAVE US ALONE! WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE US THE SHOCK--
...ALONE?
I GOT'CHA, HONEY! YOU'RE OKAY! YOU'RE HOME! I'LL KEEP YOU SAFE. DON'T WORRY
SEE? I SAID IT WOULD ALL WORK OUT. ALWAYS TRUST YOUR MOTHER.

HOW DO I KNOW YOU ARE THE GENUINE ITEM? YOU COULD BE AN IMPOSTOR.
I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU DRAGGED KASEY INTO TH--
WAIT A MINUTE. I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE...
THE LIMO! I SAVED YOUR BUTT!
SO... IT IS YOU.
UNDERSTAND, THEN. I HAVE TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY [redacted] BALANCE THE SCALES.
YOUR ACTIONS AGAINST MY UNDERLING, THE SPECIALIST, WAS AN INSULT TO [redacted].
ON THE OTHER HAND, YOUR RESCUING ME PUT ME IN YOUR DEBT. ONE, HOWEVER, DID NOT FULLY BALANCE OUT THE OTHER. SO I TOOK STEPS TO SETTLE THE MATTER.
WE EMPOWERED KASEY NASH... A WOMAN WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE IS [redacted] TO YOU, [redacted] THE SPECIALIST WAS IMPORTANT TO US.
WE THEN THRUST HER INTO THE PUBLIC, BEFORE SHE WAS PROPERLY TRAINED, CERTAIN THAT THE RESULTS WOULD BE DISASTROUS [redacted] HER. AND THEY [redacted]
2708

AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, THE SCALES ARE NOW FULLY AND TRULY BALANCED.
YOU CRETIN! SHE WAS AN INNOCENT!
I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS!
DO NOT BE NAIVE.
NOT IF YOU ARE WISE. DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE OUR RESOURCES.
[redacted] FOUND KASEY. WE CAN FIND OTHERS THAT YOU CHERISH. I AM DISINCLINED TO MAKE YOU A PARIAH, SO I ADVISE YOU NOT TO FORCE MY HAND.
DO NOT CALL ME AGAIN. THAT ALSO WOULD BE A SIGN OF DISRESPECT... AND UNWISE.
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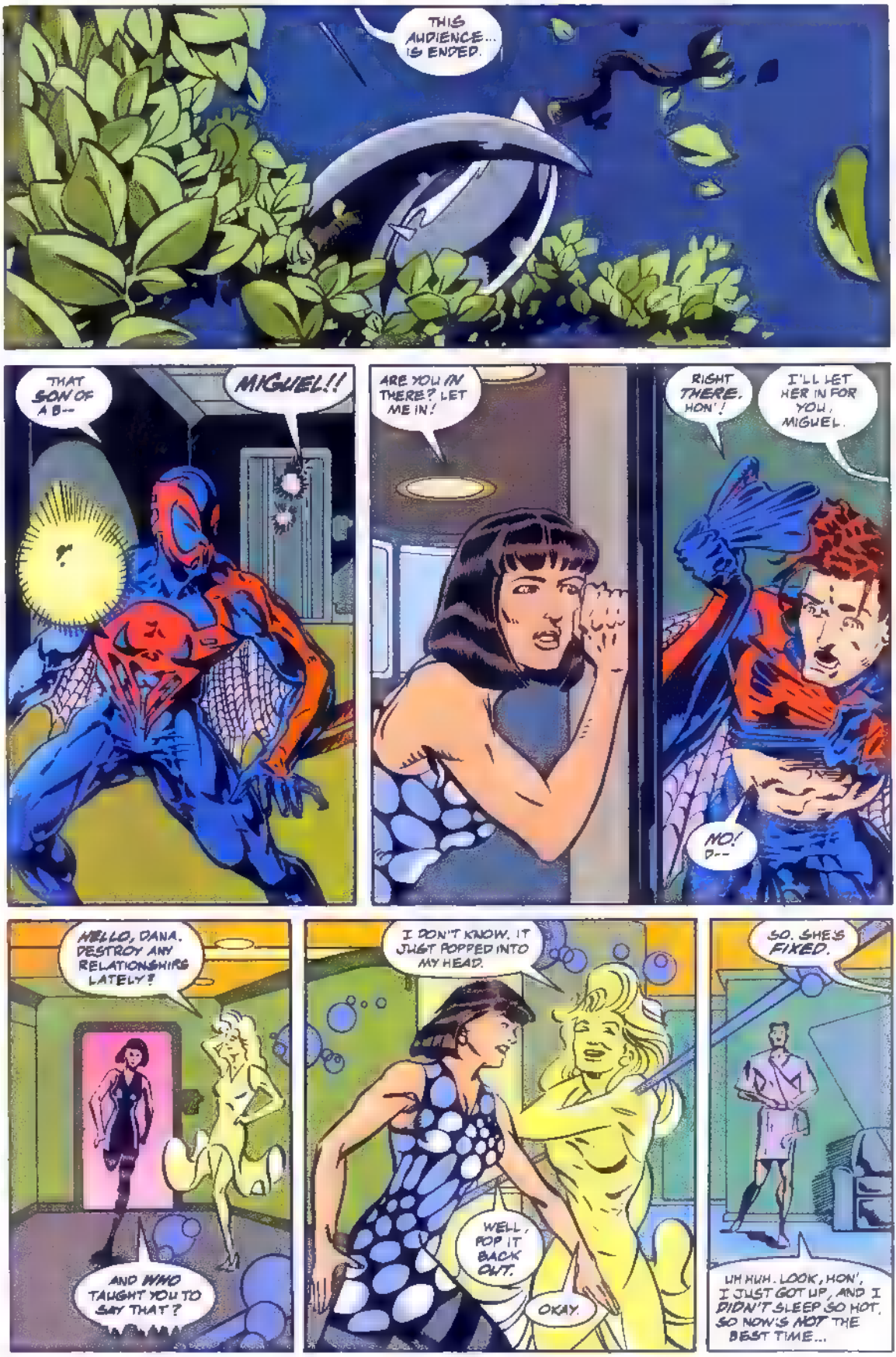
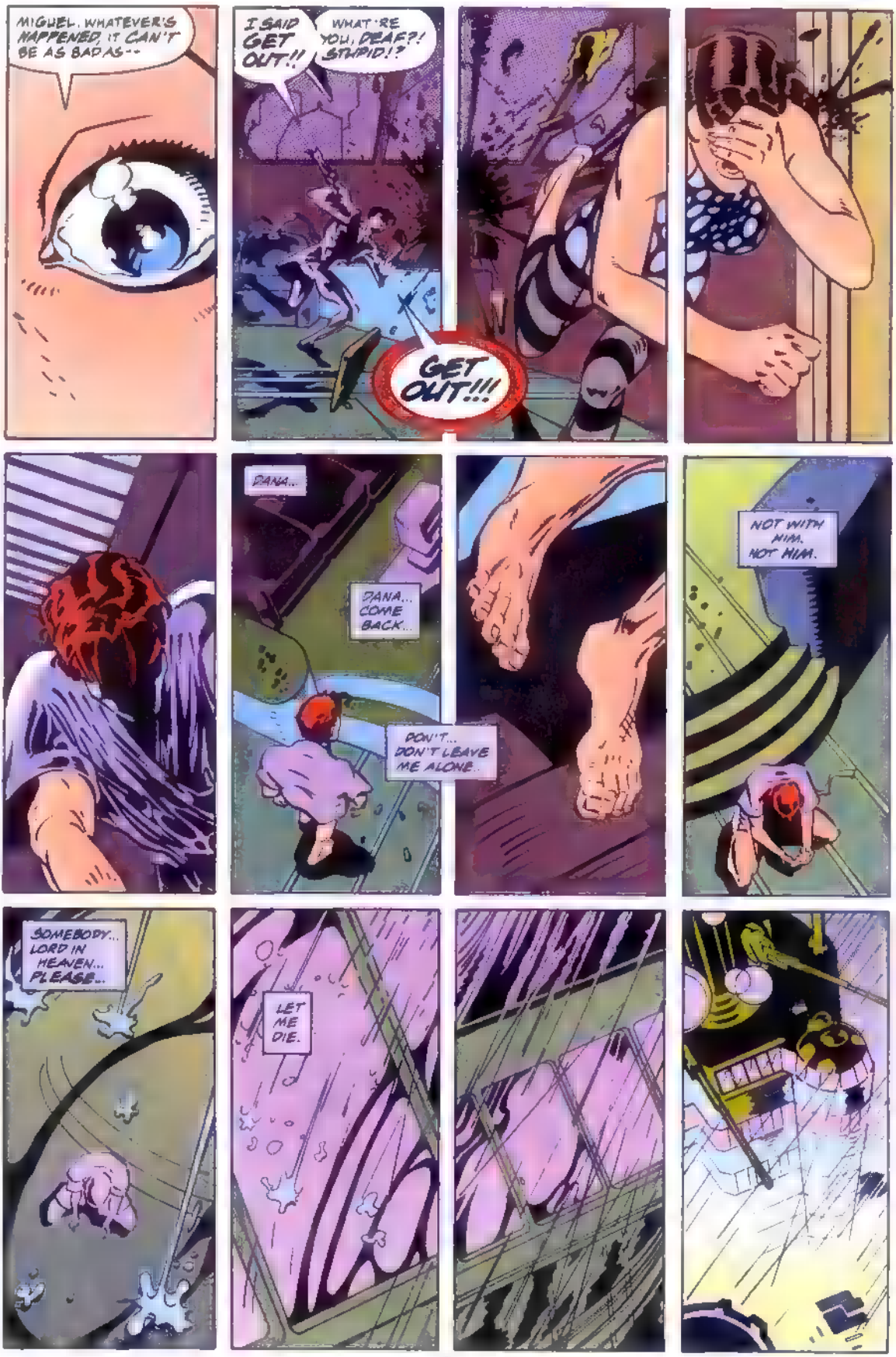
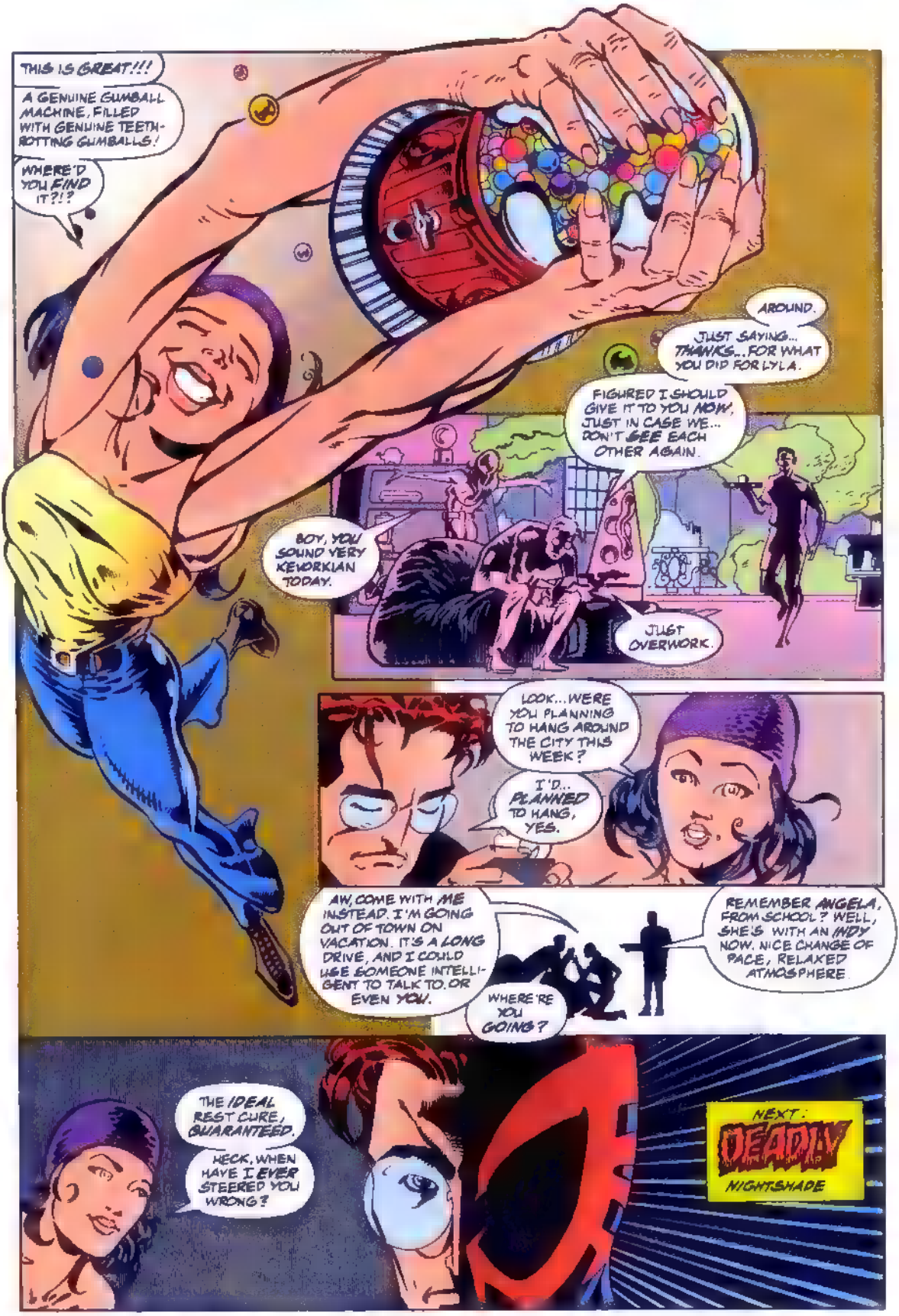

THIS AUDIENCE... IS ENDED.
THAT SON OF A B--
MIGUEL!!
?
ARE YOU IN THERE? LET ME IN!
RIGHT THERE, HON'!
I'LL LET HER IN FOR YOU, MIGUEL.
NO! D--
HELLO, DANA. DESTROY ANY RELATIONSHIPS LATELY?
AND WHO TAUGHT YOU TO SAY THAT?
I DON'T KNOW. IT JUST POPPED INTO MY HEAD.
WELL, POP IT BACK OUT.
OKAY.
SO. SHE'S FIXED.
UH HUH. LOOK, HON', I JUST GOT UP, AND I DIDN'T SLEEP SO HOT, SO NOW'S NOT THE BEST TIME...

[redacted] YOU DESTROYING [redacted] RELATIONSHIP NOW, DANA?
SHUT UP.
AT LAST I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'VE SEEMED SO DISTANT LATELY. WHY YOU'VE KEPT SUCH WEIRD HOURS.
YOU'RE SEEING HER AGAIN. SEEING XIMA.
SHE CAME BY TO FIX LYLA. THAT'S ALL.
JUST OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF HER HEART? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
DANA, I REALLY DON'T WANT [redacted] DISCUSS THIS NOW, OKAY? JUST... JUST GO, OKAY?
I NEVER TRUSTED HER. SHE'S GOT THIS CONDESCENDING ATTITUDE THAT--
DANA... PLEASE...
I'M IN A REALLY... REALLY... LOUSY MOOD. OKAY? JUST... JUST GO.
I JUST WANT TO KNOW IF, OR WHEN THINGS WILL BE BACK TO NORMAL!
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S POSSIBLE ANYMORE.
WH-WHAT?
MIGUEL, I LOVE YOU.
AND I LOVE YOU... [redacted] THAT'S WHY I'M TELLING [redacted] TO GET OUT. NOW.

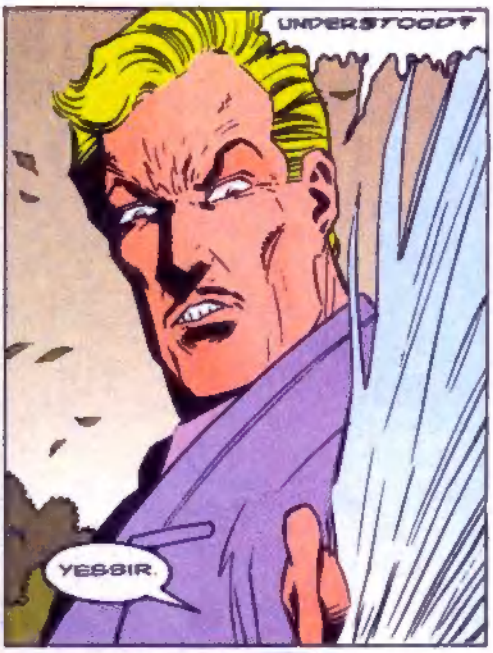

MIGUEL, WHATEVER'S HAPPENED, IT CAN'T BE AS BAD AS--
I SAID GET OUT!!
WHAT'RE YOU, DEAF?! STUPID!?
GET OUT!!!
DANA...
DANA... COME BACK...
DON'T... DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE...
NOT WITH HIM. NOT HIM.
SOMEBODY... LORD IN HEAVEN... PLEASE...
LET ME DIE.


THIS IS GREAT!!!
A GENUINE GUMBALL MACHINE, FILLED WITH GENUINE TEETH-ROTTING GUMBALLS!
WHERE'D YOU FIND IT?!?
AROUND.
JUST SAYING... THANKS...FOR WHAT YOU DID FOR LYLA.
FIGURED I SHOULD GIVE IT TO YOU NOW, JUST IN CASE WE... DON'T SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
BOY, YOU SOUND VERY KEVORKIAN TODAY.
JUST OVERWORK.
LOOK...WERE YOU PLANNING TO HANG AROUND THE CITY THIS WEEK?
I'D.. PLANNED TO HANG, YES.
AW, COME WITH ME INSTEAD. I'M GOING OUT OF TOWN ON VACATION. IT'S A LONG DRIVE, AND I COULD USE SOMEONE INTELLIGENT TO TALK TO. OR EVEN YOU.
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
REMEMBER ANGELA, FROM SCHOOL? WELL, SHE'S WITH AN INDY NOW. NICE CHANGE OF PACE, RELAXED ATMOSPHERE.
THE IDEAL REST CURE, GUARANTEED.
HECK, WHEN HAVE I EVER STEERED YOU WRONG?
NEXT: DEADLY NIGHTSHADE

Stan Lee presents
YOUNG MIGUEL O'HARA
FAMILY AFFAIR
WELL, GEORGE... I'M WAITING FOR YOU TO PUT KRON DOWN.
DON'T MAKE ME ASK YOU A SECOND TIME.
PETER DAVID Writer
VINCE GIARRANO Artist
JOE ROSAS Colorist
JANICE CHIANG Letterer
JOEY CAVALIERI Editor
TOM DeFALCO Father Figure

MR. STONE! THIS... THIS IS YOUR BOY?
THAT'S RIGHT, GEORGIE. SO Y'BETTER LEGGO, OR YOU ARE IN BIG TROUBLE.
DO AS HE SAYS, GEORGE.
DADDY! HE WAS MEAN TO ME! DON'T LET HIM--?
HUSH, GABRI.
MAKE HIM APOLOGIZE! PAP HE SHOVED ME AROUND! HE'S GOTTA APOLOGIZE!
I THINK THAT WOULD BE BEST, GEORGE. YOU SHOULD HAVE MORE SELF-CONTROL.
LOOK, MR. STONE...
LET'S BE ADULT HERE, GEORGE. APOLOGIZE TO KRON.
YOUR BOY IS A BULLY AND A THUG...
...AND THE DAY MY HUSBAND APOLOGIZES TO HIM, OR YOU, WILL BE A COLD DAY IN HELL!
WOW.

HMPH.
I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO POINT ARGUING ON SUCH A LOVELY DAY, KRON... BEHAVE YOURSELF FROM NOW ON, UNDERSTOOD?
BUT DAAAAD--!


UNDERSTOOD?
YESSIR.

ARE YOU NUTS?! WHAT DID YOU THINK YOU WERE SAYING JUST THEN! STONE COULD RUIN US!
I WAS TRYING TO SAVE YOU EMBARRASSMENT!

BY FLUSHING MY CAREER AWAY! THANKS A LOT!
COME ON, BOYS.
BUT--
I SAID "C'MON!"

WHAT'S WRONG, MIGUEL?
MY MOTHER JUST GOT KRON STONE IN TROUBLE, WHICH WAS REAL CONSIDERATE OF HER.
DAY'S END SHE GOES BACK HOME, AND I'M STUCK HERE WITH THAT PSYCHO.
SO IF HE GIVES YOU GRIEF, FIGHT BACK!
HE'LL KILL ME, XINA!
THEN GO DOWN FIGHTING!
I'D RATHER NOT FIGHT AT ALL, THANKS.
YOU'RE HOPELESS.
LOVES ME... LOVES ME...
...NOT.
I CAN NEVER GET THAT TO WORK OUT, EITHER.
LOOK, MRS. STONE, IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY...
...THEN JUST SAY IT, OKAY, AND GET IT OVER WITH.
OKAY.

I THOUGHT WHAT YOU SAID WAS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT.
I THOUGHT IT TOOK A LOT OF CLASS AND A LOT OF GUTS. I WANTED TO SHOUT, "GOOD FOR YOU!"
YEAH? THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU?
BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE THE GUTS.
I THOUGHT WE MIGHT BECOME FRIENDS, CONCHATA. WE HAVE THINGS IN COMMON, AFTER ALL...
LIKE MY HUSBAND, FOR STARTERS.
DON'T INSULT MY INTELLIGENCE BY DENYING IT.
HOW... MUCH DO YOU KNOW?
I KNOW WHEN IT STARTED AND WHEN IT ENDED.
I KNOW ABOUT MIGUEL.
AND WITH ALL THAT, NANCY... HOW CAN YOU WANT TO BE MY FRIEND?
BECAUSE, CONCHATA... I MAY NOT HAVE GUTS...
BUT I'M LOADED WITH CLASS.
THE END